

REMARKS

In the specification, a new paragraph has been added after the title to identify priority documents and to claim benefit to such documents.

Claims 6, 12, 48, 49, 70 and 71 remain in this application. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-31, 33-42, 45-47, 50-69 and 72-76 have been canceled without prejudice in order to expedite the prosecution of the remaining claims. Applicants reserve the right to file the canceled claims in a continuation application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-31, 33-42, 45-47, 50-69 and 72-76 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tice et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,407,609) in view of Okada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,652,441). In light of the cancellation of these claims, the Examiner's rejection is no longer applicable. In any event, by cancellation of these claims Applicants do not concede that the Examiner's rejection has merit. Applicants canceled the claims in order to expedite the prosecution of the allowable subject matter.

Claims 6, 12, 48, 49, 70 and 71 have been amended to read as independent claims, as suggested by the Examiner. Based on these amendments, Applicants believe these claims should be allowed.

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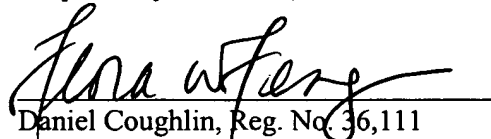
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application complies with 37 C.F.R. §1.121. Applicants believe no further fee is due at this time; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or to credit any overpayment, to the undersigned's account, Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference Number: 28069-543 (Customer Number: 35437).

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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